

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AID-20

CEA-02 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 INT-08

SAM-01 SCI-06 STR-08 TRSE-00 AGR-20 NEA-10 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7235

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0449

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, ETRD, FI, UR, CSCE

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KEKKONEN TALKS TO BRITISH

AMBASSADOR ABOUT HIS TRIP TO SOVIET UNION

1. WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR,
T.A.K. ELLIOTT, BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICIAL GAVE
AMEMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF
PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S TALK WITH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR
ON MARCH 1.

2. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL BRITISH-
FINNISH QUESTIONS, LARGELY CENTERING ON TRADE,
KEKKONEN TALKED ABOUT HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE SOVIET
UNION. KEKKONEN SAID THAT HE HAD GONE TO THE SOVIET
UNION PRIMARILY TO TAKE UP QUESTIONS CONCERNED WITH
HOW FINNS WERE GOING TO PAY FOR INCREASED COSTS OF
OIL IMPORTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION. OTHER MATTERS
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DISCUSSED WITH THE SOVIETS INCLUDED, AT THEIR

INITIATIVE, THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, CSCE, AND SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF FINNISH-SOVIET TRADE, KEKKONEN NOTED TO ELLIOTT THAT JUST INCREASING FINNISH EXPORTS OF CONSUMER OR AGRICULTURAL GOODS COULD NOT SOLVE THE NEW TRADE IMBALANCE THAT HAD DEVELOPED AS A RESULT OF THE PRICE INCREASES FOR OIL. IT WAS THEREFORE NECESSARY, ACCORDING TO KEKKONEN, TO SEEK TO FIND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINLAND TO INCREASE ITS EXPORTS IN THE FORM OF LARGE PROJECTS IN THE SOVIET UNION, SUCH AS ENTIRE FACTORIES, TOWNS, HOTELS, AND THE LIKE. KEKKONEN SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL POSSIBLE PROJECTS, AND THAT THE EXPERTS WOULD BE GETTING DOWN TO DETAILS IN MARCH. HE APPEARED TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS IN THIS FIELD, INCLUDING JOINT FINNISH-SOVIET PROJECTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES (WHICH HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED ZAVIDOVO), AS HE HAD SEEMED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF LOWER PRICES FOR SOVIET OIL, BASING THIS ON A REMARK BY PREMIER KOSYGIN TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FIRST PRICE THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ARRIVED AT FOR THEIR CRUDE WAS TOO HIGH AND WOULD BE ADJUSTED. (COMMENT: THE FINNS AND THE SOVIETS HAVE YET TO AGREE ON THE PRICE FOR SOVIET CRUDE OIL.)

4. KEKKONEN TOLD ELLIOTT THAT HE HAD HELD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV ON FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS, BUT CHARACTERIZED HIS OWN ROLE AS THAT OF THE LISTENER. THE FIRST SUBJECT THE SOVIETS TOOK UP HAD BEEN THE MIDDLE EAST, REGARDING WHICH THE SOVIETS HAD EMPHASIZED THAT EVEN AFTER THE SEPARATION-OF-FORCES NEGOTIATIONS WERE COMPLETED, A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFICULT WORK REMAINED BEFORE AN OVERALL MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED.

5. KEKKONEN INFORMED ELLIOTT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD INDICATED SATISFACTION OVER THEIR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE UPCOMING VISIT BY
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PRESIDENT NIXON. THE SOVIETS HAD ALSO REMARKED ON THEIR RECENTLY IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE BRITISH.

6. CONCERNING THE CSCE, KEKKONEN SAID THAT THE SOVIETS VERY MUCH WANTED THE THIRD STAGE TO BE ON THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND WERE HOPEFUL OF BEING ABLE TO PERSUADE PRESIDENT POMPIDOU TO ACCEPT THIS. AS TO THE TIMING OF STAGE III, KEKKONEN HAD

GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS WERE FOCUSING ON JULY. KEKKONEN SAID THAT IN RESPECT TO HIS JOINING THE SOVIETS IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF HIS VISIT IN EXPRESSING THE HOPE FOR THE THIRD STAGE TO BE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, HE WAS PROCEEDING FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND STAGE WOULD WARRANT IT. AS TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CSCE TALKS, KEKKONEN SAID THAT THE SOVIETS SEEMED TO HAVE REAL DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CBM ON MOVEMENTS, BUT COULD PROBABLY WORK OUT THEIR PROBLEMS WITH THE MANEUVERS QUESTIONS. ON BASKET III QUESTIONS THE SOVIETS, ACCORDING TO KEKKONEN, HAD SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT FREE ACCESS TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR WESTERN INFORMATION, BECAUSE IT WOULD ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE THE SOVIET SYSTEM AND COULD ENDANGER THE MORAL HEALTH OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE. KEKKONEN WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO GIVE SOMETHING ON OTHER BASKET III MATTERS, PARTICULARLY ITEMS LIKE THE RE-UNITING OF FAMILIES. KEKKONEN TOLD ELLIOTT THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ASSESS OR CONCLUDE AS TO WHETHER OR HOW MUCH THE SOVIETS WOULD EVENTUALLY COMPROMISE IN THE CSCE NEGOTIATIONS. (COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO CONTRADICT KEKKONEN'S REMARK THAT HE WAS PROCEEDING ON THE BASIS THAT STAGE II RESULTS WOULD MERIT HIGHEST LEVEL STAGE III.)

7. FRENCH AMBASSADOR GERARD ANDRE ON MARCH 1 BRIEFED ME ON DISCUSSION HE HAD HAD WITH KEKKONEN. THE SAME TOPICS HAD BEEN COVERED, PERHAPS NOT IN QUITE AS MUCH DETAIL AS WITH ELLIOTT. ANDRE HAS ALSO REMARKED THAT THE INTERPRETER WAS SO BAD THAT HE COULD UNDERSTAND MORE OF THE FINNISH THAN THE FRENCH. CONFIDENTIAL

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